

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-02 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05 /075 W

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R 241635Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7864

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 0788

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ASEC AO CG PO

SUBJECT: GULF-CABINDA KIDNAPPING CASE

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATION PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR MARTINE (WHO HAS BEEN ABSENT FOR SOME TIME) CONFIRMED THAT THE THREE PORTUGUESE EMPLOYEES OF GULF-CABINDA DETAINED BY FLEC SINCE NOVEMBER 3 WERE RELEASED UNHARMED AND WITHOUT RANSOM ON DECEMBER 24. MARTINS PERSONALLY PARTICIPATED IN THEIR RETURN AT POINT NEAR THE CABINDA-ZAIRIAN BORDER. GOZ SECURITY OFFICIALS COOPERATED IN THE OPERATION BUT DID NOT PLAY A DIRECT ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OR THE RELEASE.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA MENTIONED MATTER TO ME RECENTLY, NOTING GOZ'S COOPERATION AND ASSERTING THAT GOZ WOULD DEAL FIRMLY WITH FLEC SHOULD THEY ATTEMPT TO USE ZAIRIAN SOIL FOR THE CONDUCT OF ANY OTHER SUCH OPERATIONS. AMBASSADOR MARTINS NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT DESPITE ITS COOPERATION GOZ HAS NOT TAKEN PUNITIVE MEASURES AGAINST THOSE FLEC IN ZAIRE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE GULF KIDNAPPING.

3. GULF-ZAIRE DIRECTOR KING CONFIRMS THAT MOST OF THE REMAINING 30- ODD KIDNAPPED EMPLOYEES OF CABINDAN AND CAPE VERDIAN ORIGIN ARE ALL STILL BEING HELD BY FLEC. KIDNAPPERS RECENTLY CONVEYED NEW PROPOSAL FOR MEETING WITH FULF IN NEUTRAL COUNTRY TO DISCUSS
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TERMS OF RELEASE. WHILE GULF HAS REITERATED ITS READINESS TO HOLD SUCH TALKS, ACCORDING TO KINS THEY HAVE MADE CLEAR TO FLEC THEY ARE NOT INCLINED TO YIELD TO DEMANDS FOR RANSOM PAYMENT. KING ALSO STATED GULF IS INCREASINGLY SUSPICIOUS THAT NUMBER OF HOSTAGES MAY HAVE DECIDED TO JOIN FORCES WITH THEIR FLEC CAPTORS.
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